



Incoming Duxbury Free Library Director Carol Jankowski stands with current Director Elaine Winqvist, who will be stepping down this month. Jankowski is currently the director of circulation, but wears other hats such as coordinating the library's speaker series. She has been at the DFL since 1997.

New director for library

BY JUSTIN GRAEBER, CLIPPER EDITOR
JUSTIN@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM

The next director of the Duxbury Free Library will be a familiar face — especially to anyone who attends the library's popular Sunday Salon series or other events.

Carol Jankowski, who had been the library's director of circulation, has been appointed to replace outgoing director Elaine Winqvist.

Jankowski has been with the Duxbury Free Library since 1997. However, her career in library services started about 25 years ago at the John Curtis Library in Hanover, where she worked part time.

"I'd always been interested in libraries, but I wasn't necessarily on the career path to become a professional librarian," she said.

Jankowski's undergraduate degree is in sociology, and she had worked at the Braintree Council on Aging before going to Hanover.

started to organize speaking events at the library, such as visits from authors and other experts, often in partnership with the locally-owned bookseller, Westwinds Bookshop.

"Because we had the space and facility, and we had the community asking for more programs and services, I started to expand my role," she said.

Jankowski also said that she and the other librarians are fortunate to work in a supportive community like Duxbury.

"Duxbury is a very educated community, people have high standards and high expectations of what they want both from their schools and their library services," she said. "We are fortunate to be in a community that supports their library at a very substantial level."

As far as making her own stamp on the library, Jankowski is helping to develop a new five-year strategic plan for the

into the public library world, and what can be affordable."

For example, the latest hot item in the library world is e-books. The Duxbury Free Library has many such books available, and they can be downloaded and managed using a service called overdrive.

Jankowski also gave credit to Winqvist for the library's success.

"I am stepping into a role that has been wonderfully developed and managed by the outgoing director," she said. "She's taken this library and built a team of incredible staff."

Although she wasn't directly involved in the selection process for the new director, Winqvist said she always knew Jankowski would be a stellar candidate.

"She rose to the top during the whole search process," she said. "I knew she was going to shine."

Winqvist has been the

— "I have been a lifelong, passionate reader and interested in all types of literature and poetry," she said. "In my family, public libraries have always been promoted as just the greatest place in town."

Once she started at the Curtis, she knew she had found her life's work.

"I felt like I had found my professional home," she said.

In 1997, she was hired at the Duxbury Free Library — which at the time was located in the Wright Building as the library staff prepared for a move into new headquarters in the old high school. She met the former library director in a graduate school program and learned Duxbury's head of circulation was retiring. There was also a buzz around the new building.

"I was able to help to define my own role, and I got to hire some great new staff," she said.

In addition to her role in the circulation department — one of the busiest departments at the library — Jankowski

library. The plan is centering around three main concepts: The library as commons, providing current topics and titles and information literacy.

The idea of "library as commons" involves a vision of the library as a central place for people to gather and share ideas and common interests.

"A library ... helps address the need of people to meet and interact with people in their community," she said. "There's still that humanistic need to have a place to gather."

The technology piece will also be important for the library moving forward. Jankowski pointed out that the computer lab on the upper floor of the library is being used almost constantly, and said the library is a place people come to gain computer and technology literacy.

"We try to link people up with the best information," she said. "We're really in the position of trying to stay abreast of the emerging technologies, review them, then make decision about how they will integrate

Duxbury Free Library's director for 11 years, working in the reference department for about a year and a half before that.

Like Jankowski, Winkquist talked about being lucky to live in a community where people make such good use of the library. She also said she was happy with her accomplishments in technology, pointing out the reference department has more PCs and databases than books these days.

"Technologies ... have changed the way we offer information," she said.

She said she will miss the camaraderie of the library staff as well.

"I'm most proud of the fact that all of the staff really likes to come to work," she said. "Truly, we have a good time."

Jankowski said she hopes to continue expanding the programs like Sunday Salon, and is looking forward to the future.

"It's been a pretty remarkable, wonderful experience so far, and I assume it will continue," she said.